



## **Houston Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Medical Waste Q&A**

**1. How does a resident in a private household dispose of their medical waste (used needles / syringes)?**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), you can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by placing needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects used in administering health care in your home, in a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid. Be sure to reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape. The EPA also recommends that soiled bandages, disposable sheets and medical gloves be placed in securely fastened plastic bags before you put them in the garbage can with your other trash.

**2. What should a person do if they see medical waste on property that would be a public health concern?**

Report the specific location to the Bureau of Occupational Health and Radiation Control at 713-640-4359.

**3. What type of illegally dumped medical waste will the Department of Health and Human Services pick up?**

Needles, not the plastic syringe without the needle, and liquid blood or material dripping with blood only on public property.

#### **For more information**

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/>